

Tools of the Trade - The Ripple Effect with Polymer Clay

NEWSLETTER 02

The weather forecast for the day of The Ripple Effect workshop was rain but much to our surprise it was a beautiful sunny day all day.

Rebecca, my excellent workshop organiser and I quickly set up in The Old Mortuary, Rotherhithe. Having already had the first workshop on Beaux Bangles there in the May meant that we knew exactly the best arrangement of the tables in the work room. We had hired the largest room and a smaller room for the refreshments and the 3 ovens. After checking everything was ready we had just enough time for a quick coffee before people began arriving at 9.30 am.

Everyone arrived with arms laden with equipment. It's funny how we need to bring the kitchen sink to workshops!

As old and new friends greeted we learned how far people had travelled. One lady had travelled from Belgium and another from Wales. They were each making a weekend mini break and taking in a West End show too.

As soon as everyone had registered with Rebecca, pinned on their name tags, and set up their work places, the sound of polymer clay being conditioned was apparent. After the introductions were done we were eager to get started as we had a lot to do in a day.

Staedtler, our workshop sponsor, had very kindly donated all the polymer clay for the workshop with 6 blocks of Fimo for each delegate as well as providing the ripple blades for everyone. The company had also provided me with one of their shiny red clay machines. These are wider than the usual clay machines so you can make wide sheets of clay or blends.

The class moved on quickly through the necessary clay conditioning, making a blend with 3 colours and building a multi layered stack. As the layered stacks needed to 'rest' it was with perfect timing that we stopped for lunch.

Rebecca had prepared a great lunch of quiches and sandwiches with delicious fillings, a salad and other tasty things. As it was a lovely sunny day many of us took advantage of the weather and had lunch outside in the little garden.

The afternoon continued with seeing more ways of using one of the tools of the trade, the ripple blade. I love this tool as you can cut wavy lines, texture with the wavy line and then, the best use for the tool is cutting slices from a multi layered stack. The cut slices reveal a ripple pattern.

I showed several ways of making beads with the ric-rac patterned clay slices including Hum-Bug beads or perhaps they could be called T-Bag beads and oval pillow beads which we made into expandable



bracelets threaded with elastic.

We baked trays of beads throughout the afternoon and at the end of the workshop everyone displayed their creations on the 'show & tell' table. Some pieces were still hot from the oven. It was good to see what everyone had made with their ripple effect clay slices and an opportunity to take photos. This was followed by the raffle of prizes donated by Staedtler.

As the sun was still shining we gathered in the garden for a group photo before beginning the packing up, saying our good byes and departing for home.

Thanks to everyone who came from near and far. And special thanks to Rebecca without whose help I couldn't do these workshops.

The next workshop will be 'Extrusions Galore' on Sunday 20th November when we will explore another fabulous tool of the trade, the extruder.

Hope to see you there.

To register for the Extrusions Galore workshop please contact Rebecca at rebecca@clectic-events.co.uk



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